CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	**Wing Road Farms EQIP**
Proposed Implementation Date:	Summer 2018
Proponent:	Wing Road Farms
Location:	33N 23E 26 & 36 32N 23E 12 32N 24E 7
County:	Blaine
Trust:	Common

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Wing Road Farms has requested to install about 4.5 miles of HDPE pipeline across state land. The pipeline will be used for Stockwater purposes. They requested to install it with a Cat ripper at a depth of 6 feet. All associated stock tanks will be placed on deeded land.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
Northeastern Land Office (NELO)
Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS)
Wing Road Farms (Proponent)

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

The DNRC, and NELO have jurisdiction over this proposed project.

DNRC is not aware of any other agencies with jurisdiction or other permits needed to complete this project

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A (No Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does not grant permission to install the stockwater pipeline.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does grant permission to install the stockwater pipeline.webs

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

Tables — Ecological Site Name: NRCS Rangeland Site — Summary By Map Unit

Summary by Map Unit — Blaine County and Part of Phillips County Area, Montana (MT608)

Summary by Map Unit — Blaine County and Part of Phillips County Area, Montana (MT608)

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
35	Creed loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Silty (Si) RRU 58A-C 11-14" p.z.	0.0	2.1%
40	Elloam-Absher complex, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Claypan (Cp) 10-14" p.z.	0.1	9.5%
73	Kevin-Elloam complex, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Loamy (Lo) Dry Grassland	0.1	8.4%
81	Lisam-Hillon association, steep	Shallow Clay (SwC) 10-14" p.z.	0.0	2.3%
91	Nishon clay loam	Draft Overflow (Ov) RRU 46-C 13-19 p.z.	0.0	1.8%
97	Phillips-Elloam complex, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Loamy (Lo) Dry Grassland	0.3	23.0%
98	Phillips-Elloam complex, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Loamy (Lo) Dry Grassland	0.0	3.3%
99	Phillips-Kevin complex, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Loamy (Lo) Dry Grassland	0.2	16.3%
100	Phillips-Kevin complex, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Loamy (Lo) Dry Grassland	0.2	15.4%
123	Thoeny-Elloam-Absher complex, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Claypan (Cp) 10-14" p.z.	0.2	17.9%
Totals for Area of Interest			**1.1**	**100.0%**

Table — Erosion Hazard (Off-Road, Off-Trail) — Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value

Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Slight	1.1	97.7%
Moderate	0.0	2.3%
Totals for Area of Interest	**1.1**	**100.0%**

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- Only 2% of the affected soils are rated as "moderate" in regard to off-road erosion. These areas may need straw waddles or water bars to reduce the erosion potential. Seeding immediately after could speed up the recovery of the APE.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- Pipeline may improve water quality on adjacent reservoir and Stockwater pits with the cattle utilizing water from the tanks instead of these areas.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:
What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

The will be some ground disturbance and bare ground created associated with the stockwater pipeline installation. These areas will be prone to noxious weed infestations. Frequent scouting should occur until revegetation has occurred to suppress noxious weed establishment.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- Bare ground associated with the installation of a stockwater pipeline will revegetate with grass & shrubs in a few years. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) will remain visible for many years.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:
Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:
Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

Species of Concern
8 Species
Filtered by the following criteria:
MT Status = Species of Concern
Township = 032N024E (Based on mapped Species Occurrences)

SCIENTIFIC NAME / COMMON NAME / TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) / FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
Cynomys ludovicianus Black-tailed Prairie Dog	*Sciuridae* Squirrels	G4	S3		Sensitive - Known on Forests (CG)	SENSITIVE	SGCN3	15%	71%	Grasslands
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: [illegible]								
Aquila chrysaetos Golden Eagle	*Accipitridae* Hawks / Kites / Eagles	G5	S3	BGEPA; MBTA; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	3%	100%	Grasslands
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: [illegible]								
Athene cunicularia Burrowing Owl	*Strigidae* Owls	G4	S3B	MBTA; BCC17	Sensitive - Known on Forests (CG) Sensitive - Suspected on Forests (HLC)	SENSITIVE	SGCN3	2%	82%	Grasslands
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: [illegible] State Rank Reason: [illegible]								
Centrocercus urophasianus Greater Sage-Grouse	*Phasianidae* Upland Game Birds	G3G4	S2		Sensitive - Known on Forests (BD) Sensitive - Suspected on Forests (CG, HLC)	SENSITIVE	SGCN2	17%	75%	Sagebrush
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: [illegible]								

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:
Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

There are numerous cultural sites around the proposed pipeline route. Sites include stone circles and cairns. All registered sites will be avoided and if previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

11. AESTHETICS:
Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:
Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:
List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

Alternative A (No Action)-No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:
Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:
Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:
Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:
Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:
List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:
Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:
Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:
Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:
How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:
Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

Alternative A (No Action)- No effect anticipated.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action)- No effect anticipated.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	**Name:**	Brandon Sandau
	Title:	Land Use Specialist
Signature:		**Date**: March 15, 2018

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does grant permission to install the stockwater pipeline.webs

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

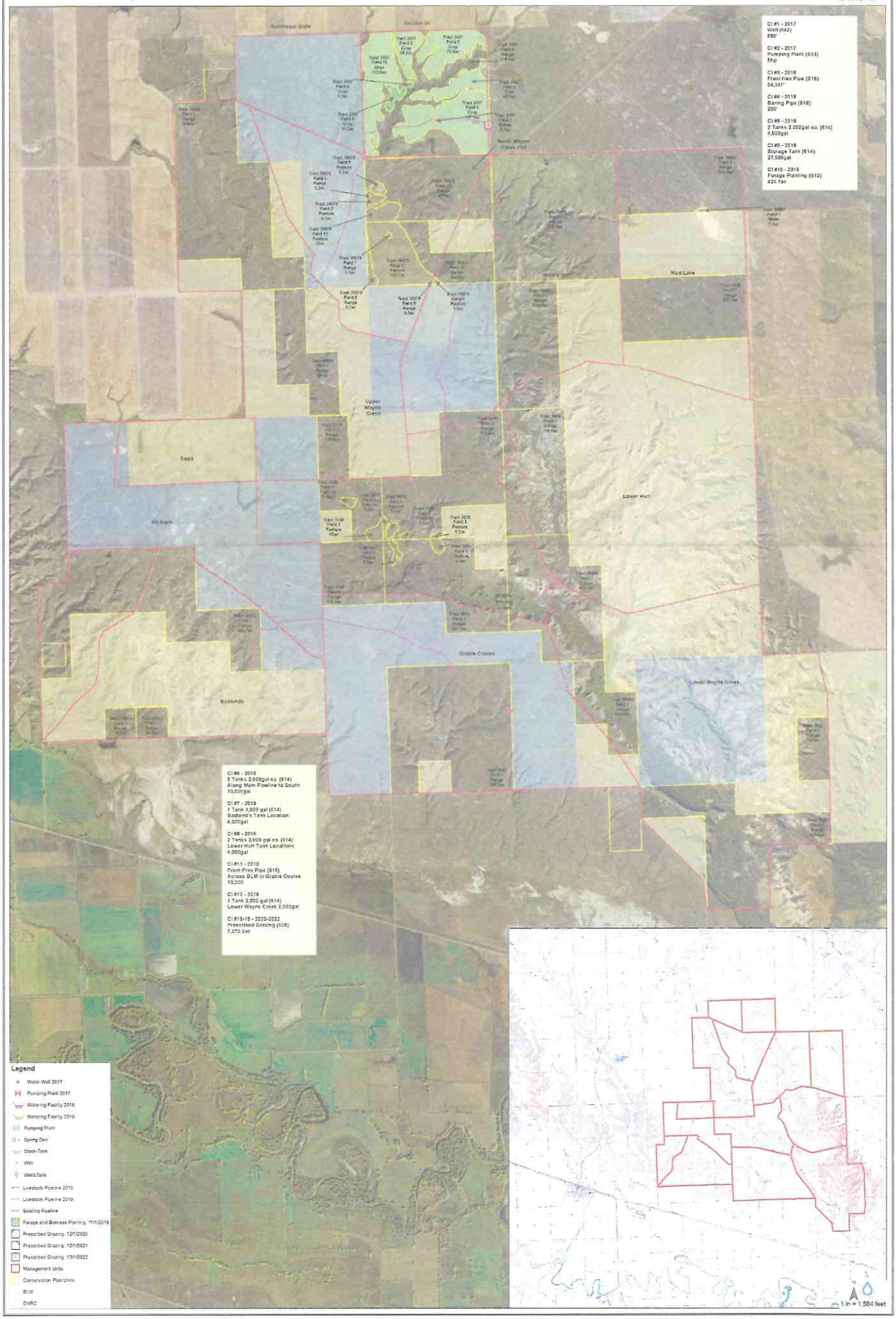
No significant impact expected.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:					
	EIS		More Detailed EA	**XXX**	No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name:**	Barny D. Smith
	Title:	Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office
Signature:		**Date**: March 15, 2018

Wing Road Farms
EQIP 170TT Plan Map

June 5, 2017
USDA-NRCS
Chinook Field Office
Blaine County, MT
By: Danny Pratt



CI #1 - 2017
Well (642)
850'

CI #2 - 2017
Pumping Plant (533)
5hp

CI #3 - 2018
Frost-free Pipe (516)
64,341'

CI #4 - 2018
Boring Pipe (516)
200'

CI #5 - 2018
2 Tanks 2,000gal ea. (614)
4,000gal

CI #6 - 2018
Storage Tank (614)
27,000gal

CI #10 - 2019
Forage Planting (512)
426.7ac

CI #6 - 2018
5 Tanks 2,000gal ea. (614)
Along Main Pipeline to South
10,000gal

CI #7 - 2018
1 Tank 4,000 gal (614)
Badland's Tank Location
4,000gal

CI #8 - 2018
2 Tanks 2,000 gal ea. (614)
Lower Hart Tank Locations
4,000gal

CI #11 - 2018
Frost-Free Pipe (516)
Across BLM in Grable Coulee
10,200

CI #12 - 2019
1 Tank 2,000 gal (614)
Lower Wayne Creek 2,000gal

CI #13-15 - 2020-2022
Prescribed Grazing (528)
7,372.3ac

Legend

- Water Well 2017
- Pumping Plant 2017
- Watering Facility 2018
- Watering Facility 2019
- Pumping Plant
- Spring Dev
- Stock Tank
- Well
- Well&Tank
- Livestock Pipeline 2018
- Livestock Pipeline 2019
- Existing Pipeline
- Forage and Biomass Planting: 11/1/2019
- Prescribed Grazing: 12/1/2020
- Prescribed Grazing: 12/1/2021
- Prescribed Grazing: 12/1/2022
- Management Units
- Conservation Plan Units
- BLM
- DNRC

1 in = 1,584 feet